



Council Agenda Report

FROM: Hans Usler, City Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Council's Commitment and Support to Achieve Racial Equity and to Promote Diversity and Inclusion and Consider Supporting Proposition 16 (Not a Project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378, and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopt a resolution declaring the Council's commitment and support to achieve racial equity and to promote diversity and inclusion, and consider whether to support Proposition 16.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Committing and supporting efforts to achieve racial equity and promoting diversity and inclusion is consistent with the City Council's value drivers to "maintain and expand an environment that solicits, welcomes and appreciates input from all" and "working to improve the quality of life of our residents."

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of Monterey determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The Council could choose not to support this resolution, but that approach is not recommended. Support of Proposition 16 is not included in the draft resolution. A statement of support for Proposition 16 can be added to the draft Resolution should the City Council wish to support it.

DISCUSSION:

The senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police officers has been a global wake-up call on the institutional and systemic racism that continues to exist in our nation. The Monterey community firmly stands against racism, bigotry, violence, and discrimination.

On June 5, 2020, the City of Monterey's Executive Team collectively issued a Message to the Community expressing its sadness and outrage over the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other Black lives (Attachment 2). The Executive Team reaffirmed its commitment to continuing and expanding policies and practices that promote racial equality in our community.

On June 9, 2020, the City of Monterey's Police, Parks, Fire, Streets, Parking, and other staff members ensured that the Black Lives Matter peaceful protest could be held safely at Colton Hall Lawn and on city streets.

In recent months, individual council members have continued to express their desire to support efforts that advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. As part of a multi-levelled approach to this important topic, the Monterey City Council is being asked on October 6, 2020 to consider taking an initial step by adopting a resolution declaring the City Council's commitment to support and achieve racial equity and promote diversity and inclusion.

This resolution would:

- Denounce the actions and inactions of police officers which resulted in the loss of so many Black lives and resolves to do our part to ensure that this does not happen in the City of Monterey;
- Direct the City Manager and Chief of Police to return in 2020 with a presentation to City Council on the Monterey Police Department's use of fair and impartial policing policies;
- Direct the City Manager to develop and present to Council a comprehensive plan that incorporates policies, procedures, and priorities that address racial equity, inclusivity, equity, and diversity among the City's Boards and Commissions; and

Additionally, Council might want to express support of Proposition 16, which would restore affirmative action in California — meaning universities and government offices could factor in someone's race, gender or ethnicity in making hiring, spending, and admissions decisions (Attachment 3 includes information on Proposition 16 from the California Secretary of State's Voter Information Guide, including the Official Title and Summary prepared by the California Attorney General, Analysis from the Legislative Analyst, and Arguments In Favor/Against).

Adoption of the proposed resolution would allow staff to move forward with initial steps in this multifaceted approach to achieve racial equity and to promote diversity and inclusion.

Attachments: 1. Draft Resolution
2. Message from the City of Monterey's Executive Team to the Community (June 5, 2020)
3. Proposition 16 – Voter Information Guide Excerpts, California Secretary of State

Writings distributed for discussion or consideration on this agenda item, pursuant to Government Code § 54957.5, are posted at <https://monterey.org/Submitted-Comments> within 72 hours of the meeting.